GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3994
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
E-COMMERCE AND E-GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) whether the Government have not been able to speed up e- commerce and e-governance programme in its departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of licences issued by Controller of Certifying Authority for certifying Digital Signatures;

(d) the reasons for slow progress in the use of digital signatures in the country; and

(e) the measures to be adopted to increase e-commerce and e-governance programme in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, the position in these sectors is as follows: E-Commerce: As per the NASSCOM Market Survey, the E-Commerce transactions in the country were estimated at Rs.20,000 Crores in 2002-03 and expected to rise to Rs. 40,000 Crores during 2003-04. As per the CII survey the E-Commerce transactions during 2003-04 are estimated to be Rs. 50,000 Crores. Thus there is an increasing growth trend in E-Commerce.

E-Governance: The Department of Information Technology (DIT) through National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been providing network backbone and E-Governance support to Central Government Departments, State Governments and District Administration in the country.

Planning Commission guidelines permit usage of 2 to 3% of budget provision in Central Ministries / Departments for Programmes / Schemes relating to Information Technology. A minimum agenda for E-Governance has also been drawn up for implementation by the Central Ministries / Departments.

While approving the Tenth Five Year Plan, the National Development Council (NDC) has set up four Empowered Sub-Committees, including an Empowered Sub-Committee on Governance Reforms with special reference to E-Governance.

(c) Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA) has issued three licenses to Certifying Authorities (CA) for issuing Digital Signature Certificates. The licensed CAs are Safescrypt Ltd., Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology

(IDRBT) and Tata Consultancy Services.

(d) and (e) Culturally the Indian business community is more inclined towards actual physical commerce and trade instead of using E-facility. Thus the E-Commerce culture in India is in its infancy. Conventional methodologies for governance, commerce and trade related transactions do not depend on E-Governance and E- Commerce. Applications of E-Governance and E-Commerce continue to be viewed as alternatives instead of substitutes for the conventional methodologies.

Consequently the progress in the usage of digital signature in the country is slow. Further, forced measures like legislation, technological advancements (imported or indigenous), Government subsidies etc. have not resulted into increase in acceptance of new technology (E-Governance and E-Commerce) by masses.